

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

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July 30, 2013

Ms. Kami Griffin, Assistant Director

# **County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building**

976 Osos Street, Room 300 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

RE: SCH#2005041094 CEQA Notice of Completion; Revised draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the "Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Subdivision Tract Map and Conditional Use Permit Project;" located in the City of Arroyo Grange; San Luis Obispo County, California

Dear Ms. Griffin:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the CEQA Notice regarding the above referenced project. In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3<sup>rd</sup> 604), the court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources impacted by proposed projects, including archaeological places of religious significance to Native Americans, and to Native American burial sites.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA guidelines 15064.5(b). To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search to determine: If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural places(s), The NAHC recommends that known traditional cultural resources recorded on or adjacent to the APE be listed in the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

If an additional archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey. We suggest that this be coordinated with the NAHC, if possible. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native

American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure pursuant to California Government Code Section 6254.10.

A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site has been provided and is attached to this letter to determine if the proposed active might impinge on any cultural resources. Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities. Also, California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 require documentation and analysis of archaeological items that meet the standard in Section 15064.5 (a)(b)(f). Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans. Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely

Program Ahalys

CC: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contacts list

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This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed LSCH#2005041094; CEQA notice of Completion; Revised draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Laetitia Agricultural Cluster Subdivision Tract Map and CUP; located in the City of Arroyo Grande; San Luis Obispo County, California.

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